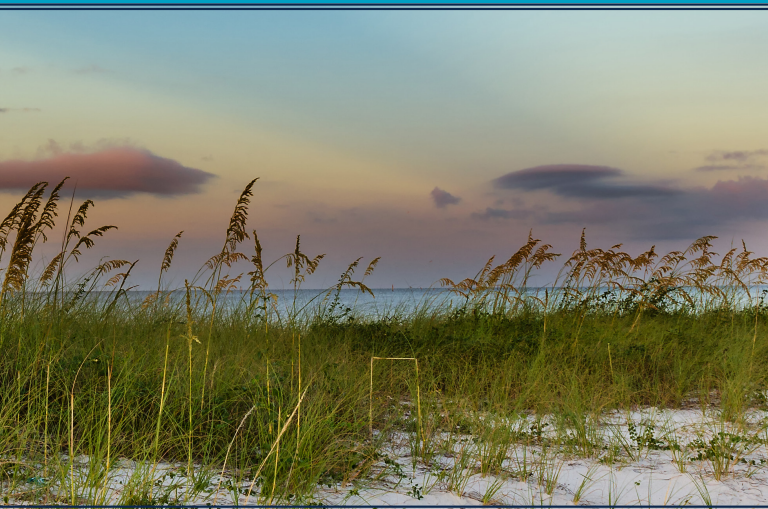


# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING of the SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

*The Premier Public Policy Forum  
for Southern State Legislatures*



**BILOXI**  
**MISSISSIPPI**

# SLC Chair's Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Mississippi for the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference. On behalf of the members of the Legislature, we are pleased to share our renowned hospitality with you.



Mississippi's history is long and storied. The Gulf Coast, part of the vibrant Native American Mississippian region, is known for its resiliency, hospitality and hard-working people. During the course of Biloxi's history — sited as early as 1699 by the French — six nations' flags have flown over these shores, leaving a cultural heritage as rich as a jambalaya or gumbo you may taste during your visit.

In December of 1817, Mississippi was officially recognized as the 20th state in the United States of America. As a precursor to our Bicentennial Celebration, we look forward to sharing with you a reflection of Mississippi's history and culture. During your stay with us, we will spend some time honoring our people and places. We'll showcase our music and food, as well as our many achievements in agriculture, science and industry, literature and architecture, sports and more.

Our substantive programming is sure to start the conversation about policy and process and shine a spotlight on innovative programs in Mississippi and throughout our region, and our guest and youth events no doubt will be memorable.

If we can be of assistance to you while in Mississippi, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you for being part of our SLC Family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Gunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Philip" being more prominent than the last name "Gunn".

Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi  
SLC Chair 2016-2017

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**CHAIR ELECT**

Senate President Pro Tem  
Ron Richard, Missouri

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**IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**

Senate President  
Robert Stivers, Kentucky

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**DIRECTOR**

Ms. Colleen Cousineau

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# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## General Information

### LOCATIONS

**Annual Meeting Registration** is located within the West Lobby of the Mississippi Coast Convention Center.

**SLC committee meetings and workshops** are held at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center, except where noted otherwise.

**The SLC/Mark Norris Campaign Against Hunger** Food Packaging Event is at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday in Room B5 (accessible through B1 and B4) of the Mississippi Coast Convention Center.

**The Committee Technical Tour** bus for Huntington Ingalls Industries will begin boarding in the bus lobby of the Beau Rivage at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday and **will depart promptly** at 10:45 a.m.

**Committee Technical Tour** buses for the Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center, Pascagoula River Audubon Center and NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center will begin boarding in the bus lobby of the Beau Rivage at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and **will depart promptly** at 11:45 a.m.

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### CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

Attending substantive committee sessions may qualify for Continuing Legal Education credits for state government officials in SLC member states. Substantive committee sessions are identified with a superscript <sup>CLE</sup> following the session title. Forms and instructions are available at the CLE table, located near Annual Meeting Registration in the West Lobby of the Mississippi Coast Convention Center. For additional details, contact Mikko Lindberg in the SLC Executive Office (Room L2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center) or at [mlindberg@csg.org](mailto:mlindberg@csg.org).

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### ETHICS

The ethics laws in some states prohibit or limit the value of gifts to legislators and legislative staff. If it is a violation of your state's ethics laws to accept or use any of these gifts, you may return them or pass them along.

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### OPEN MEETINGS

All publicized SLC committee sessions are open to all registrants regardless of formal committee appointments or affiliations.

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# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## General Information

### DIRECTORY

**BEAU RIVAGE** .....(228) 386-7111

*875 Beach Boulevard*

**HARD ROCK HOTEL** .....(228) 374-7625

*777 Beach Boulevard*

**DOUBLETREE BILOXI**.....(228) 546-3100

*940 Beach Boulevard*

**TRANSPORTATION** ..... (601) 500-0994

*Room 3043-3045 (Third Floor Hospitality Suite), Beau Rivage*

**HOST STATE**.....(601) 500-2468

*Azalea Ballroom A, Beau Rivage*

**SECURITY** ..... (601) 500-0588

*Oaks Boardroom, Beau Rivage*

**MEDICAL**.....(601) 500-0121

*Medical Room (near main entrance),  
Mississippi Coast Convention Center*

**YOUTH CENTER** ..... (601) 500-0727

*Camellia Room, Beau Rivage*

**GUEST LOUNGE** .....(601) 500-0555

*Azalea Ballrooms B-D, Beau Rivage*

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### ALCOHOL

The Council of State Governments advocates responsible consumption of alcohol and use of designated drivers by all participants at CSG functions.

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### ATTIRE

Attire for committee meetings is business casual. Attire for family and guest activities is casual unless otherwise indicated. Attire for the State Dinner is business formal.

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# Meeting at a Glance

DAY	SATURDAY JULY 29	SUNDAY JULY 30
REG.	7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. REGISTRATION	7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. REGISTRATION
MORNING		8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. <b>COMMITTEE SESSIONS</b> Agriculture & Rural Development Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs Education
	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. <b>STAFF WORKSHOP</b>	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. <b>SLC/MARK NORRIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER</b>
AFTERNOON		noon - 1:30 p.m. <b>WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM</b>
	3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. <b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION</b>	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. <b>COMMITTEE PROGRAMS</b> Energy & Environment Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Human Services & Public Safety
EVENING		5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. <b>CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS ALUMNI RECEPTION</b>
	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. <b>OPENING RECEPTION</b>	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. <b>FAMILY NIGHT</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2</b>		

# Meeting at a Glance

## MONDAY JULY 31

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
COMMITTEE SESSIONS  
Energy & Environment  
Fiscal Affairs &  
Government Operations  
Human Services & Public Safety

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**OPENING  
PLENARY  
SESSION**

noon - 1:30 p.m.  
COMPARATIVE DATA  
REPORTS PRESENTATIONS

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
COMMITTEE PROGRAMS  
Agriculture & Rural Development  
Economic Development,  
Transportation & Cultural Affairs  
Education

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
PROGRAM INTERVAL

9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
**2018 HOST STATE  
RECEPTION: MISSOURI**

## TUESDAY AUGUST 1

7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
**CLOSING PLENARY &  
BUSINESS BREAKFAST  
SESSION**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION  
*Upon conclusion of the  
Closing Plenary Session*

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
STATE TRANSFORMATION IN  
ACTION RECOGNITION (STAR)  
AWARD JUDGES PANEL

10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
COMMITTEE TECHNICAL  
TOURS

## MEETING LOCATIONS

Mississippi Coast  
Convention Center

Beau Rivage  
Hotel

Off-site

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
**RECEPTION &  
STATE DINNER**

Departure day. No programmatic events are scheduled.

# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## Saturday, July 29

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	<b>REGISTRATION</b> West Lobby, Mississippi Coast Convention Center
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<b>STAFF WORKSHOP</b> <sup>CLE</sup> <b>Rooms D1-D2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center</b> <b>PRESIDING OFFICER:</b> <i>Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas; Legislative Service Agency Directors Chair</i> <b>Supreme Court Update:</b> <b>A Briefing from the State and Local Legal Center</b> <i>Lisa Soronen, Executive Director, State and Local Legal Center, Washington, D.C.</i> <b>How a Repeal of the Affordable Care Act Would Affect State Governments</b> <i>Mattie Quinn, Health Writer, Governing, Washington, D.C.</i> <b>Parliamentary Procedure: History and Practice</b> <i>Kay Allison Crews, President, American Institute of Parliamentarians, Texas</i> <b>Program Design and Performance Evaluation</b> <i>Linda Triplett, Director, Performance Accountability Office, Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review, Mississippi</i> <i>Kirby Arinder, Ph.D., Research Methodologist, Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review, Mississippi</i>
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING</b> <b>Rooms D11-D12, Mississippi Coast Convention Center</b> <b>PRESIDING OFFICER:</b> <i>Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi; SLC Chair</i> <b>Home Town: Restoring Small-Town America</b> Erin and Ben Napier's new HGTV show, <i>Home Town</i> , follows the couple in Laurel, Mississippi, as they bring new life to historic homes in their community.
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	<b>OPENING RECEPTION</b> City of Gulfport Marina and Jones Park

# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Sunday, July 30

7:30 a.m. -  
5:00 p.m.

### REGISTRATION

West Lobby, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

8:00 a.m. -  
9:30 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

Rooms D7-D9, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

#### PRESIDING OFFICER:

*Senator Danny Verdin III, South Carolina; Acting Committee Chair*

#### Agricultural Trade with Cuba

Despite ongoing economic sanctions, the United States has emerged as a major exporter of agricultural goods to Cuba, which imports up to 80 percent of its food. Given Cuba's geographic and economic position, states in the Southern region of the United States have competitive export advantages in terms of production, quality, logistics and proximity. Of all states exporting to Cuba, Southern states comprise nine of the top 10. This session examines current and future agricultural export opportunities to Cuba, current barriers, and steps states can take to initiate trade with the island nation.

*Mike Strain, D.V.M., Commissioner, Louisiana*

*Department of Agriculture and Forestry*

*Collin Laverty, President, Cuba Educational Travel, Florida*

#### Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important agriculture and rural development issues taken up in SLC states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.



### ANNUAL MEETING APP

Download our meeting app by searching for **SLC Annual Meeting** in the App Store and Google Play or by visiting:  
[slcatlanta.org/MS2017app/](http://slcatlanta.org/MS2017app/)



# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Sunday, July 30

8:00 a.m. -  
9:30 a.m.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

Rooms D1-D2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

PRESIDING OFFICER:

*Representative Jeanie Lauer, Missouri; Acting Committee Chair*

### Autonomous and Connected Vehicles: The Road Ahead

Automated and connected vehicle technologies are being developed and deployed across a variety of public and private platforms, potentially increasing safety, reducing emissions and improving the efficiency and reliability of the transportation system. The accelerated pace of innovation in the automated vehicles sector will require states and operators of roadway infrastructure to adopt policies and technology to accommodate the vehicles of the future. This session examines this once-futuristic enterprise and what roles states may expect to play.

*Scott Shogan, Vice President, Connected/Automated  
Vehicle Market Leader, WSP USA, Michigan  
Senator Jim Tracy, Speaker Pro Tempore, Tennessee*

### Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important economic development, transportation and cultural affairs issues taken up in SLC states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.



# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Sunday, July 30

8:00 a.m. -  
9:30 a.m.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

**Rooms D11-D12, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

#### **PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Senator Dolores Gresham, Tennessee; Committee Chair*

#### **An Overview of “Mississippi Education Works”**

In 2013, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant played a key role in guiding a series of education reforms, known collectively as “Mississippi Education Works,” which prioritized literacy promotion; state-funded early learning collaborative projects; teacher and school quality improvement; and career orientation. The successful implementation of the legislation has received national attention from leading educational institutions. This session highlights Mississippi’s reforms and examines the ways in which the measures have improved the state’s educational system.

*Laurie Smith, Ph.D., Education and Workforce  
Development Policy Advisor, Office of  
Governor Phil Bryant, Mississippi*

#### **Loan Forgiveness and Scholarships for Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

Teacher shortages, particularly for high-demand subjects and critical geographic areas, have led to a proliferation of state-sponsored financial incentives to encourage more students and professionals to enter the teaching profession. This session focuses on financial incentives for teacher recruitment and retention and strategies that ensure they deliver results.

*Tim Sass, Ph.D., Distinguished University  
Professor, Department of Economics, Fiscal  
Research Center, Georgia State University*

#### **Legislative Roundtable**

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important education issues taken up in SLC states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.

71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the*  
SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Sunday, July 30

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<b>SLC/MARK NORRIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER</b> Room B5, Mississippi Coast Convention Center <i>(access through Room B1 and B4)</i>
noon - 1:30 p.m.	<b>WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM</b> Rooms A4-A6, Mississippi Coast Convention Center <i>(access through Room B1 and B4)</i> <b>INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS:</b> <i>Representative Angela Cockerham, Mississippi</i>  <b>Cindy Hyde-Smith</b> Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Mississippi Cindy Hyde-Smith was elected Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce by Mississippi voters in November 2011, after a 12-year career as a Mississippi state senator. With her election, Hyde-Smith made Mississippi history as the first woman elected to the statewide position.
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<b>NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE</b> Room L5, Mississippi Coast Convention Center <i>(Nominating committees for SLC standing committee officers meet separately.)</i>



*The Premier Public  
Policy Forum for  
Southern State Legislatures*

**Sunday, July 30**

2:30 p.m. -  
4:30 p.m.

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE SESSION** CLE

**Rooms D7-D9, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia; Committee Chair*

**Lessons in Resilience: Coastal  
Restoration in Mississippi**

The resiliency of the state’s coastal communities is of critical economic importance to the nation, as they provide a large portion of the nation’s oil and gas supply, host key port complexes and provide vital habitats for economically important fisheries. This session highlights efforts to restore the coastline and economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the Macondo well blowout and subsequent oil spill of 2010.

*George Ramseur, Director, Office of Coastal Restoration and Resilience, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*

*Gary Rikard, Executive Director,*

*Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality*

**The Road to the Future: Georgia’s Laboratory  
for Sustainable Infrastructure Innovation**

Through a unique partnership of private, nonprofit and state entities, the Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway (The Ray), a section of I-85 in Georgia, is poised to become one of the nation’s safest and most fuel-efficient highways. The Ray features a solar roadway, public solar-powered vehicle charging station, butterfly habitat and bioswales that filter storm water runoff. This session highlights planned and completed projects along the highway, and examines the opportunities and benefits of sustainable infrastructure.

*Allie Kelly, Executive Director, The Ray, Georgia*

*Costas Simoglou, Director, Center of Innovation for Energy Technology, Georgia Department of Economic Development*

# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Sunday, July 30

2:30 p.m. -  
4:30 p.m.

## FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

**Rooms D1-D2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Representative Penny Houston, Georgia; Committee Vice Chair*

### Public Pensions: A Fiscal Imperative

Managing more than \$3.6 trillion in stocks, bonds and other securities, state and local governments make calculated decisions geared toward securing a return rate on investments that ensures future benefits for their retirees. This session focuses on the range of opportunities and challenges facing state governments in maintaining their employee retirement investments.

*Donald J. Boyd, Ph.D., Director of Fiscal Studies,  
Rockefeller Institute of Government, New York  
Herb Frierson, Commissioner,  
Mississippi Department of Revenue*

### Recent Trends in State Budgets

For the seventh consecutive year, state budgets for fiscal year 2017 saw moderate growth in general fund spending. The aftermath of the Great Recession still is being felt, and the softening of state tax collections is a lingering symptom. This session provides a review of the sluggish and uneven growth of general fund revenues, states' efforts to address the uncertainty of revenue streams through both tax decreases and increases, and the status of rainy day funds and the trend to continue bolstering these accounts.

*John Hicks, Executive Director, National Association  
of State Budget Officers, Washington, D.C.*

# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Sunday, July 30

2:30 p.m. -  
4:30 p.m.

### HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

**Rooms D11-D12, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Senator Doug Overbey, Tennessee; Committee Chair*

#### Managing Foster Care Systems

Due to a lack of resources, of the more than 400,000 children in foster care throughout the United States, many do not receive adequate support and cannot be placed with permanent families. For some states, deficiencies in the foster care system have reached crisis levels, leaving them scrambling to find a solution. This session examines the many obstacles of managing sustainable foster care systems and actions taken in South Carolina to address this important issue.

*Michelle Dhunjishah, Director, Children's Law Center,  
University of South Carolina*

#### Long-Term Care in the South

As the nation's population continues to age, long-term care is becoming an increasingly important policy concern. Approximately 70 percent of people turning 65 will need some form of long-term care during their lifetimes, posing concerns not only for patients and their families, but also for state budgets. This session highlights the challenges long-term care poses for states and reviews potential solutions that can help policymakers address this critical challenge.

*Kathleen Ujvari, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor,  
AARP Public Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.  
Anne Tumlinson, Chief Executive Officer,  
Anne Tumlinson Innovations LLC*

#### Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important human services and public safety issues taken up in SLC states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.

# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Sunday, July 30

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | **CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
LEADERSHIP SKILLS ALUMNI RECEPTION**  
Magnolia Ballrooms E-F, Beau Rivage Hotel



**Governmental Leadership Program of the  
Southern Office of The Council of State Governments**

**October 14-18, 2017 | Little Rock, Arkansas**

The Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills (CALS) seeks to create skilled, educated and confident state leaders by developing and enhancing core competencies that play a vital role in the service of public officials, in both professional and personal arenas.

To learn more or apply for the CALS leadership program, visit [slcatlanta.org/CALS](http://slcatlanta.org/CALS) or email the SLC at [slcreginfo@csg.org](mailto:slcreginfo@csg.org).

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | **FAMILY NIGHT *at*  
FORT MAUREPAS PARK**



# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Monday, July 31

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<b>REGISTRATION</b> West Lobby, Mississippi Coast Convention Center
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	<b>ENERGY &amp; ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SESSION</b> <sup>CLE</sup> Rooms D7-D9, Mississippi Coast Convention Center <b>PRESIDING OFFICER:</b> <i>Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia; Committee Chair</i>  <b>Energy Resilience and the U.S. Military: Lessons for the States</b>  Energy has long been a fundamental enabler of military operations. To enhance national security, the U.S. military is focused on increasing resilience by implementing renewable energy technologies, onsite distributed generation and smart microgrids. Onsite generation and storage, combined with specialized control systems, could enable the electricity to be directly routed to military installations in the event of a grid disruption or other power emergency. This session explores energy generation, storage and transmission initiatives undertaken by the military and how states in the Southern region may adopt similar strategies. <i>Ariel Castillo, Ph.D., Senior Energy Resilience Program Manager, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Energy, Installations, and Environment, U.S. Department of Defense, Virginia</i>  <b>Legislative Roundtable</b>  The Legislative Roundtable highlights important energy and environment issues taken up in SLC states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.



# BILOXI MISSISSIPPI



# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Monday, July 31

8:00 a.m. -  
9:30 a.m.

## FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

Rooms D1-D2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

PRESIDING OFFICER:

*Representative Penny Houston, Georgia; Committee Vice Chair*

### The Hidden Risks of P3s: Fiscal Challenges and Opportunities

State and local government interest in pursuing public-private partnerships (P3s) as a financing mechanism for transportation and infrastructure projects has been around for well over a decade and, with the recent promotion of P3s by the federal administration, interest in them has renewed. While P3s are a useful financial tool, they must be properly structured to ensure that both sides of the partnership benefit. This session examines components of P3s that call for close inspection; successes and shortcomings of recent P3s; advantages that well-structured P3s can provide to state and local governments; and sections of the public sector where P3s have proven their effectiveness.

*Bradley J. Nowak, Partner,  
Williams Mullen, Washington, D.C.*

### Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important fiscal and government operations issues taken up in SLC states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.



# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Monday, July 31

8:00 a.m. -  
9:30 a.m.

### HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

**Rooms D11-D12, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Senator Doug Overbey, Tennessee; Committee Chair*

#### Men's Health

Men are predominantly affected by a broad range of illnesses and health conditions. Due to a lack of understanding, poor health education, and harmful behavioral patterns, men often face relatively high mortality rates that can adversely impact families, the workforce and communities. This session reviews the ways in which the legislative process helps develop and sustain public health programming as it relates to men's health.

*Mike Leventhal, Executive Director,*

*Tennessee Men's Health Network*

*Harry Tindell, Former Representative, Tennessee*

#### Healthcare Reform

Changes to the *Affordable Care Act* have the potential to significantly affect states across the South. It is probable that states will have greater autonomy to determine how healthcare is administered within their borders—giving them the ability to tailor their own programs to fit the needs and preferences of their populations—perhaps with fewer federal resources at their disposal. This session reviews the healthcare reform measures being considered in Congress and their potential impact on the states.

*Jennifer Tolbert, Director, State Health Reform,*

*Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington, D.C.*



# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Monday, July 31

10:00 a.m. -  
11:30 a.m.

## OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Rooms C1-C2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

PRESIDING OFFICER:

*Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi; SLC Chair*



**Archie Manning**

College and Professional  
Football Legend

Born in Drew, Mississippi, Archie Manning attended the University of Mississippi, where he was named an *All-American*

*Quarterback*. He was voted Mississippi's *Greatest All-Time Athlete* in 1992 and named Mississippi's *Most Popular Athlete of the Century*. During his 15-year career with the New Orleans Saints, Archie set multiple passing records, played in NFL Pro Bowls and was named *NFC Most Valuable Player* in 1978.

noon -  
1:30 p.m.

## COMPARATIVE DATA REPORTS <sup>CLE</sup>

(SPONSORED BY THE FISCAL AFFAIRS &  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE)

Rooms D3-D4, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

PRESIDING OFFICER:

*Representative Penny Houston, Georgia; Committee Vice Chair*

Prepared annually by legislative staff in Louisiana and West Virginia, comparative data reports track a multitude of revenue sources, performance measures, program variances and appropriations levels in the SLC states. They remain invaluable tools for both legislators and legislative staff in crafting effective legislation and implementing policy decisions.

### Adult Corrections

*Monique Appeaning, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana*

### Education

*Hank Hager, Senate Education Committee, West Virginia*

### Medicaid

*Zachary M. Rau, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana*

# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Monday, July 31

2:30 p.m. -  
4:30 p.m.

### AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

**Rooms D7-D9, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

#### **PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Senator Danny Verdin III, South Carolina; Acting Committee Chair*

### Floods and Farm Relief Packages

In recent years, SLC states have been ravaged by historic flooding, severely affecting family farms. To support agricultural producers sustaining major losses not covered by crop insurance and other disaster relief funding, a number of SLC states have provided one-time relief packages and support programs. This session reviews South Carolina's Palmetto Farm Aid bill, designed to provide \$40 million in state funds for farmers affected by the October 2015 floods.

*Senator Greg Hembree, South Carolina*

*Clint Leach, Assistant Commissioner,*

*South Carolina Department of Agriculture*

### State Implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act

The federal *Food Safety Modernization Act* (FSMA), signed into law on January 4, 2011, sets standards for sanitation, processing and transportation of produce and aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination to preventing it. Of the 15 states in the Southern region, 13 received funding from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to design and implement compliance programs. This session examines state government options for FSMA implementation, trends in SLC states and provides a briefing on Mississippi's approach to adopting the updated food safety standards.

*Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner, North Carolina*

*Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

*Adam Choate, Director, Consumer Protection Division,*

*Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce*

# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Monday, July 31

2:30 p.m. -  
4:30 p.m.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

Rooms D1-D2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Representative Jeanie Lauer, Missouri; Acting Committee Chair*

### The Workforce of 2025: One State's Path Forward

For several years, conversations about economic development among state government leaders and policymakers, industry and business leaders, and educators have increasingly become conversations about education. This session highlights the myriad aspects of Tennessee's "Drive to 55" college and career readiness program and the partnerships created to achieve its success.

*Mike Krause, Executive Director,*

*Tennessee Higher Education Commission*

### Advanced Manufacturing in Mississippi

The portion of northeast Mississippi, from Columbus to Westpoint to Starkville, known as The Golden Triangle, is a region rich in assets and opportunity. In the past decade, approximately \$6 billion in capital investments have created roughly 6,000 new jobs; a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure of highway, rail, port, air and omni-modal connections that accelerate global and domestic access; and a highly skilled workforce. This session explores the successes of The Golden Triangle.

*Joe Max Higgins, Jr., Chief Executive Officer,*

*The Golden Triangle, Mississippi*

### Historic Preservation and Tax Credits

In 2006, Mississippi enacted a tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic structures to stimulate job growth, increase the tax base, and revitalize local communities. This session provides case studies of historic buildings that now serve as generators for redevelopment in Mississippi's beautiful downtowns.

*Lolly Rash, Executive Director, Mississippi Heritage Trust*

# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Monday, July 31

2:30 p.m. -  
4:30 p.m.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION <sup>CLE</sup>

**Rooms D11-D12, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

#### **PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Senator Dolores Gresham, Tennessee; Committee Chair*

### Leveraging Technology in the Classroom

The growth of personalized learning, one-to-one computing, and open educational resources have created exciting new opportunities for providing customized access to a growing volume of digitalized materials for students. This session examines the advantages of utilizing new and emerging technologies in the classroom and focuses on the Tennessee Digital Resources Library, a unique statewide initiative designed to help school districts use and share open educational resources.

*Sharon Leu, Senior Policy Advisor, Higher Education  
Innovation, Office of Educational Technology,  
U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.  
Bobby Cox, Ed.S., Director of Schools,  
Warren County, Tennessee*

### The State of Broadband in Rural Schools


Rural school districts across the country struggle to provide classrooms with consistent access to high-quality digital infrastructure that often is taken for granted by their urban and suburban counterparts. Without high-speed internet, rural schools may see their students fall behind at a time when acquisition of technical knowledge is crucial for success in the job market. This session reviews recent state progress in broadband network expansion, while acknowledging the obstacles that remain, and highlights actions taken in Arkansas to ensure all students have access to high-speed digital infrastructure.

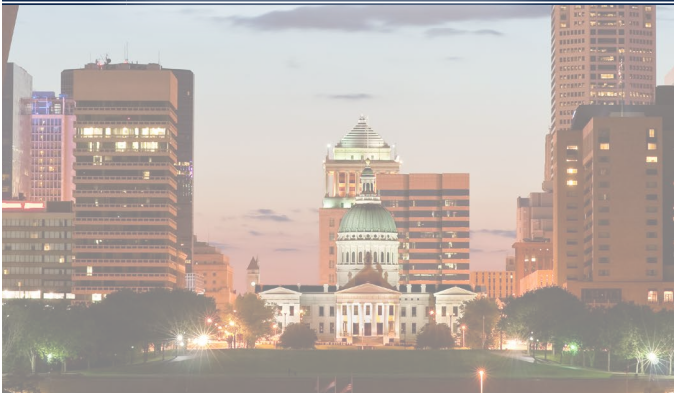
*Eric Saunders, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner of Research  
and Technology, Arkansas Department of Education  
Michael Turzanski, Director, State Engagements,  
EducationSuperHighway, California*

# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Monday, July 31

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	<b>PROGRAM INTERVAL</b> Free time for attendees and individual state activities.
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9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	<div></div> <div><h2>2018 HOST STATE MISSOURI</h2><h3>KICK-OFF RECEPTION</h3><p>Magnolia Ballrooms A-D, Beau Rivage Hotel</p><p>Welcome to the Show-Me State, where the rivers run wide and you're always part of the family.</p><p>Today, St. Louis may be best known for its Cardinals, Blues and cold beer; but, as the name of its Gateway Arch suggests, this city has long-served as a starting point for those in search of adventure and opportunity—two things Missouri has in abundance.</p><p>We have hiking, biking, rafting, caves, beaches, city skylines and rich farmland as far as the eye can see. World-class golf courses, great restaurants and winning sports teams? We have those too.</p><p>From Kansas City's legendary jazz scene to the rolling hills of wine country and from the Ozark Mountains to the Northern Plains, you don't want to miss what Missouri has to offer.</p></div>
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# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Tuesday, August 1

7:30 a.m. -  
10:00 a.m.

### REGISTRATION

West Lobby, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

8:00 a.m. -  
9:30 a.m.

### CLOSING PLENARY SESSION AND BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Rooms C1-C2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center

PRESIDING OFFICER:

*Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi; SLC Chair*



#### Fred Haise

Apollo 13 Astronaut  
Air Force and Marine  
Corps Veteran

Born in Biloxi, Mississippi, Fred Haise is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, with postgraduate coursework at Harvard and the U.S. Air Force Aerospace Test Pilot School. With flight experience in both the U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force, Haise has logged more than 9,000 hours of flying time in over 80 types of aircraft. His 20-year career at NASA began in 1959. As an astronaut, Haise served as backup crew for the missions of Apollo 8, 11, and 16. He flew as lunar module pilot on the aborted Apollo 13 mission in 1970.

(Upon conclusion of the Closing Plenary Session)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS SESSION

PRESIDING OFFICER:

*Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi; SLC Chair*

Rooms D11-D12, Mississippi Coast Convention Center



SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## Tuesday, August 1

10:00 a.m. -  
2:00 p.m.

### STAR AWARD JUDGES PANEL CLE

**Rooms D1-D2, Mississippi Coast Convention Center**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Liz Alvey, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Senate  
Majority Leader, Tennessee; STAR Judges Panel Chair*

The SLC State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Award identifies and promotes innovative ideas and programs from the Southern region's best problem solvers: the states themselves. The recognition is sought by a wide array of state agencies, departments, and institutions operating within the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government. Each year, two exceptional programs are selected by a panel of experienced policy professionals as models of efficiency and effectiveness in state government in the Southern region. This year, the five finalists presenting are:

**ARKANSAS**

*Amputation Prevention Stand-Down Program*

**WEST VIRGINIA**

*Electronic Application Processing System*

**TENNESSEE**

*Policy Initiatives to Support Higher  
Education Attainment for Veterans*

**WEST VIRGINIA**

*Sexual Assault Evidence Collection  
Kit Information System*

**LOUISIANA**

*Integrative Behavioral and Primary Care Model*



# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## Tuesday, August 1

10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	<p><b>TECHNICAL TOUR</b></p> <p>Bus will depart promptly at <b>10:45 a.m.</b> from the bus lobby of the Beau Rivage; casual attire; lunch is provided.</p> <p><i><b>Note:</b> Due to security measures and protocols, interested committee members must sign up to participate no later than <b>3:00 p.m., Monday, July 31.</b></i></p> <p><b>Economic Development, Transportation &amp; Cultural Affairs Committee</b></p> <p><b>HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES</b></p> <p>Huntington Ingalls Industries is Mississippi's largest private manufacturing employer. With more than 11,500 employees, Ingalls has been building the most complex ships in the world since 1938 and is the only shipbuilder in the country capable of building four classes of ships at the same time. Approximately 70 percent of the Navy's surface fleet was built at Ingalls. This technical tour provides committee members briefings by shipyard officials and tours of the shipyard, as well as the state-of-the-art Maritime Training Academy.</p>
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<p><b>TECHNICAL TOUR</b></p> <p>Bus will depart promptly at <b>11:45 a.m.</b> from the bus lobby of the Beau Rivage; casual attire; lunch is provided.</p> <p><b>Agriculture &amp; Rural Development Committee</b></p> <p><b>THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI'S THAD COCHRAN MARINE AQUACULTURE CENTER</b></p> <p>The Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center houses the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's marine aquaculture research and graduate education programs. The \$25 million aquaculture facility employs cutting-edge technology, peer-reviewed research and hands-on testing to grow fish in an environmentally responsible and economically feasible manner. Committee members will participate in a tour of the Center and receive briefings on key research being undertaken.</p>

# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Tuesday, August 1

11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<p><b>TECHNICAL TOUR</b></p> <p>Bus will depart promptly at <u>11:45 a.m.</u> from the bus lobby of the Beau Rivage; casual attire; lunch is provided.</p> <p><b>Energy &amp; Environment Committee</b></p> <p><b>WETLAND CONSERVATION AND THE COASTAL ECONOMY</b></p> <p>This technical tour includes a water tour of the Pascagoula River’s old growth swamps and tidal marshes and a briefing on the important connection between wetland conservation and the coastal economy. Launching from the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, committee members will receive a private boat tour of one of the last free-flowing rivers in the continental United States. Next, committee members will receive a briefing on the unique ecosystem of the Pascagoula River watershed and its vital role in supporting local tourism, recreational and commercial fishing, as well as providing critical storm protection.</p>
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	<p><b>TECHNICAL TOUR</b></p> <p>Bus will depart promptly at <u>11:45 a.m.</u> from the bus lobby of the Beau Rivage; casual attire; lunch is provided.</p> <p><i><b>Note:</b> Due to security measures and protocols, interested committee members must sign up to participate no later than <u>3:00 p.m., Monday, July 31.</u></i></p> <p><b>JOHN C. STENNIS SPACE CENTER</b></p> <p>The John C. Stennis Space Center was established to flight-certify the rocket for the Apollo Program that carried humans to the moon and, for more than five decades, has served as NASA’s primary rocket propulsion testing ground. Presently, the center is testing RS-25 engines that will power the core stage of NASA’s new Space Launch System, being developed to carry humans deeper into space than ever before. The center also is working with commercial companies, such as SpaceX and Aerojet Rocketdyne, to test the engines and components of their own space missions.</p>

*The Premier Public  
Policy Forum for  
Southern State Legislatures*

**Tuesday, August 1**

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	<b>RECEPTION</b>
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	<b>STATE DINNER</b> Magnolia Ballroom, Beau Rivage Hotel <i>(Please note, this event is intended for guests age 18 and over.)</i>

**Wednesday, August 2**

6:00 a.m. - noon	<b>AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION</b> Buses to the airport will depart on the hour from the Beau Rivage, with the final bus departing at noon.
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# 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING *of the* SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## SLC Staff / Host State Committee

STAFF OF THE SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE	
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Mikko Lindberg	Senior Communications and Research Specialist
Lori Moore	Director of Operations and Programs
Anne Roberts Brody	Policy Analyst
Roger Moore	Policy Analyst
Neil Johnson	Operations Coordinator
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Joan Minton	Consultant
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Felicia Kenan	Cornerstone Communications Group
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DIRECTOR OF HOST STATE CONFERENCE PLANNING	
Amanda Wells	

# *The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures*

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Senator Gerald Dial  
Senator Cam Ward

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Senator Jim Hendren  
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Senator Eddie Joe Williams

Speaker Jeremy Gillam  
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Senate President Pro Tem  
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Senator Jeff Mullis

Speaker David Ralston\*  
Representative Jon G. Burns  
Representative  
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David P. Givens  
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Speaker Jeff Hoover  
Speaker Pro Tem  
David Osborne  
Representative David Meade  
Representative Jody Richards\*

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## 2016-17 SLC Executive Committee

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Tate Reeves  
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Senator Mark Norris\*

Speaker Beth Halteman Harwell  
Speaker Pro Tempore  
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Representative Steve K. McDaniel

# The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

## 2016-17 SLC Executive Committee

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Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa	Speaker Joe Straus Representative Larry Phillips
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### VIRGINIA

Lieutenant Governor Ralph S. Northam Senate President Pro Tem Stephen D. Newman Senator Ryan T. McDougale	Speaker William J. Howell
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### WEST VIRGINIA

Senate President and Lieutenant Governor Mitch Carmichael Senator Craig Blair Senator Ryan J. Ferns	Speaker Tim Armstead Delegate Bill Anderson
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### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Senator Daniel B. “Danny” Verdin III, South Carolina  
*Acting Chair, Agriculture & Rural Development Committee*

Representative Jeanie Lauer, Missouri  
*Acting Chair, Economic Development,  
Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee*

Senator Dolores Gresham, Tennessee  
*Chair, Education Committee*

Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia  
*Chair, Energy & Environment Committee*

Representative Eric Johnson, Texas  
*Chair, Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Committee*

Senator Doug Overbey, Tennessee  
*Chair, Human Services & Public Safety Committee*

### \* PAST OFFICERS OF THE SLC SERVING IN THE LEGISLATURE

Representative Jody Richards, Kentucky (1999-2000)

Representative Julia C. Howard, North Carolina (2007-2008)

Senator Mark Norris, Tennessee (2010-2011)

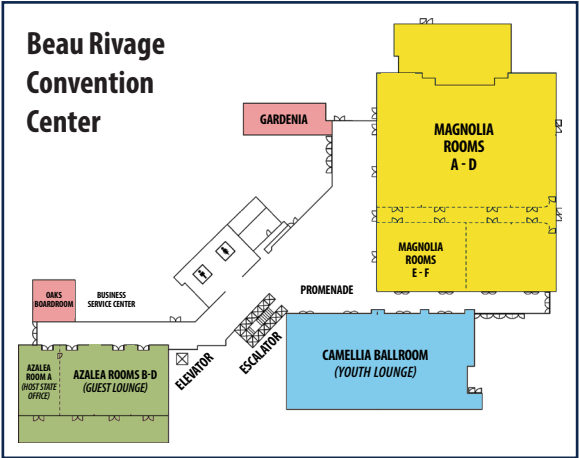
Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas (2013-2014)

Speaker David Ralston, Georgia (2014-2015)

Senate President Robert Stivers, Kentucky (2015-2016)



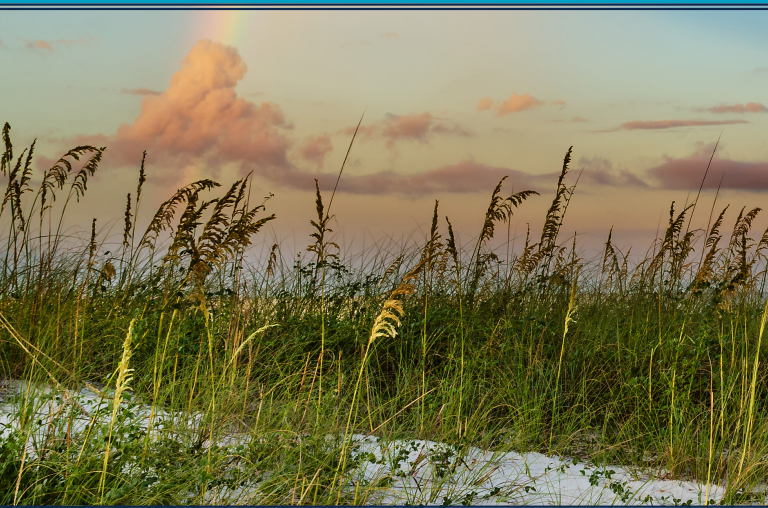
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## ANNUAL MEETING APP

Download the Annual Meeting app for easy access to information on policy sessions, presenters, Host State guest programs and more!



**SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

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The Council of State Governments**

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